IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with <u>underlining</u> and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 9 and 16, and ADD new claims 23-25, in accordance with the following:

1-5.   Canceled

6.   (previously presented) A write protection method for a recording and/or reproducing apparatus, wherein a recording medium, including a Lead-in area, a Lead-out area and a user area, is set to a write protection state ensuring the protection of data, including the entire user data area or at least a plurality of particular data files, recorded on the recording medium from unwanted overwriting or erasing when the finalization for writing on the Lead-in area and the Lead-out area has been completed, comprising:

checking the state of the recording medium;

prohibiting writing of data on the recording medium when the state of the recording medium is a write protection state;

determining whether the recording medium is positioned in a case;

if the recording medium is installed in the case, checking whether the case is set to a write protection state; and

if the state of the recording medium checked in said checking of the state of the recording medium does not match the write protection state of the case, informing a user of the difference.

7.   (previously presented) The write protection method of claim 6, further comprising:

prohibiting the writing of the data on the recording medium if the state of the recording medium is checked as a write protection state in said checking of the state of the recording medium, or the state of the case, checked in said checking of whether the case is set to a write protection state, is a write protection state.

8.   Canceled

9.   (currently amended) A write protection method for a recording and/or reproducing apparatus, wherein a recording medium, including a Lead-in area, a Lead-out area and a user data area, is set to a write protection state ensuring the protection of data, including the entire user data area or at least a plurality of particular data files, recorded on the recording medium from unwanted overwriting or erasing when the a finalization for writing on the Lead-in area and the Lead-out area has been completed, comprising:

checking a the state of the recording medium provided by write protection information stored in an area of the recording medium other than the user data area, and a write protection state of a write inhibit hole of a case or cartridge positioning the recording medium therein; and

prohibiting writing of data on the recording medium when based on the state of the recording medium and/or the state of the write inhibit hole is being set to a write protection state;

determining whether the state of the recording medium matches a write protection state of a write inhibit hole of a case or cartridge, wherein the recording medium is positioned, for write protection; and

preventing writing of the new data on the recording medium if the state of the recording medium or the state of the write inhibit hole is set to a write protection state.

10. (original) The write protection method of claim 9, further comprising:

informing a user if the state of the recording medium and that of the write inhibit hole do not match.

11-15. Canceled

16. (currently amended) A write protection method for a recording and/or reproducing apparatus, wherein a recording medium, separately including a Lead-in area, a Lead-out area, a user area, and a recording information area having a Power Calibration Area (PCA) and a Recording Management Area (RMA), includes write protection information to control protection of data, including the entire recording medium, except for the RMA recording information area, from unwanted writing or erasing, the method comprising:

checking the write protection information stored in at least one area of the RMA area of the recording medium; and

prohibiting writing of data on the recording medium when the write protection information of the recording medium is set to a write protection state.

17. (previously presented) The write protection method of claim 16, wherein the write protection information is stored in a field 0 of a Recording Management Data (RMD) area of the RMA area of the recording medium.

18. (previously presented) The write protection method of claim 17, wherein the write protection information is stored in a Byte Position(BP) 2 of the field 0 of the RMD area of the RMA area of the recording medium.

19. (previously presented) The write protection method of claim 18, wherein the recording medium is positioned in a case of cartridge having a write inhibit hole for write protection.

20. (previously presented) The write protection method of claim 16, further comprising:
determining whether the recording medium is positioned in a case;
if the recording medium is installed in the case, checking whether the case is set to a write protection state; and
if the state of the recording medium checked in said checking of the state of the recording medium does not match the write protection state of the case, informing a user of the difference.

21. (previously presented) The write protection method of claim 16, further comprising:
determining whether the recording medium is positioned in a case;
prohibiting the writing of the data on the recording medium if the state of the recording medium is checked as the write protection state in said checking of the state of the recording medium, or the state of the case checked in said checking is a write protection state.

22. (previously presented) The write protection method of claim 16, further comprising:
determining whether the recording medium is positioned in a case;
if the recording medium is installed in the case, checking whether the case is set to a write protection state;
if the state of the recording medium checked in said checking of the state of the recording medium does not match the write protection state of the case, informing a user of the difference; and
prohibiting the writing of the data on the recording medium if the state of the recording medium is checked as the write protection state in said checking of the state of the recording medium, or the state of the case checked in said checking is the write protection state.

23. (new) The write protection method of claim 16, wherein the recording medium is a medium complying with a DVD-R, DVD-RW, DVD+RW, or DVD RAM specification.

24. (new) The write protection method of claim 9, wherein the recording medium is a medium complying with a DVD-R, DVD-RW, DVD+RW, or DVD RAM specification.

25. (new) A write protection method for a recording and/or reproducing apparatus, wherein a recording medium, including a Lead-in area, a lead-out area and a user data area, is set to a write protection state to ensure the protection of data recorded on the recording medium from unwanted overwriting or erasing, with the recording medium being provided in a case or cartridge, comprising:

checking a write protection state of the recording medium provided by write protection information stored in at least one area of the Lead-in and Lead-out areas of the recording medium; and

prohibiting writing of data on the recording medium if a state of the recording medium is set to a write protection state.